



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 12, 2004

S. 2096

International Free Press and Open Media Act of 2004

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on March 4, 2004

S. 2096 would authorize the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to promote freedom of the press and other media around the world, and would earmark not less than 10 percent of funds made available to the NED for 2005 for this purpose. The NED is a private, nonprofit corporation that makes grants to private-sector and nonprofit entities to undertake activities to encourage free and democratic institutions throughout the world.

The NED received an appropriation of \$40 million for 2004, and CBO's baseline projection for 2005 is also about \$40 million. In order to maintain its existing activities and earmark 10 percent of its budget for programs authorized by this bill, the NED would need an additional \$4 million in 2005.

The President has requested an appropriation of \$80 million for 2005; under S. 2096, \$8 million of that amount would be allocated to promote freedom of the press and other media. S. 2144, the Foreign Affairs Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2005, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on March 4, 2004, would also authorize \$80 million for the NED in 2005.

S. 2096 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.